App. Ser. No.: 09/955,232 Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010197US1

PS Ref. No.: IBMK10197

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated December 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 12, 2007. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 11-33 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-33 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Simpson et al.* (US Pub. 2003/0011801 A1) in view of *Yu* (US Patent 6,707,568 B1).

In view of the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, Applicant has canceled claims 1-10, and thus, the rejections have been obviated. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims and traverse the rejections on the merits in a continuation application.

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Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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